## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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April 20, 2004

Mr. Larry Johnston Mono County Planning Department P. O. Box 347 Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 File: 09-MNO NOP/SCOPING SCH #: 2004042063

Dear Mr. Johnston:

## Intrawest Rodeo Grounds Specific Plan – Notice of Preparation Draft Environmental Impact Report (NOP DEIR) and Scoping (April 2004)

The California Department of Transportation (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment during the Scoping Phase for the June Lake Rodeo Grounds Development. To ensure the safe mobility of the public and Level of Service for state highway facilities in the June Lake area, the following items need to be addressed in the project EIR:

- A full Traffic Impact Study (TIS) will be required to address this project, along with cumulative impacts for all past and proposed future development that may impact transportation. The Department, as the responsible agency for transportation, will review the TIS to determine adequacy of the proposed mitigation for State Route (SR) 158, and if additional right-of-way would be needed. Safe crossings for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, any emergency access points at SR 158, and parking restrictions need to be determined. The TIS will also consider improvements that may be appropriate for the eastern connection of North Shore Drive and SR 158, based on the predicted increase of traffic volumes. The scenario of SR 158 closure due to both scheduled winter closure and avalanche control also needs to be analyzed.
- The intersection of SR 158 with North Shore Drive and the June Lake Ski Area
  parking lot needs to be addressed as noted above, and also due to the fact that the
  encroachment permit issued to Mono County for North Shore Drive (Enclosure A)
  dated May 8, 1996 required this. It states "The ski area has agreed to realignment
  of their driveway to facilitate an operable, functional intersection." Although a 4way aligned intersection was envisioned, a roundabout could be considered.
- The above referenced permit also states "the County of Mono will participate in traffic studies after the road is open to determine if any needed improvements (leftturn pockets, etc.) are required." Hence, Mono County could have some responsibility for this intersection in addition to that of the project proponent.

- An increase in transit services should be considered. Transit shelters along SR 158 should be placed, operated, and maintained by the county or local service district under encroachment permit.
- Safety, clearance, and encroachment permit issues need to be examined if an aerial lift is proposed to cross over SR 158.
- Snow storage and impacts to state highway snow removal operations should be addressed.
- The project proponent should be aware that an approved State Water Pollution Plan must be submitted to the Department prior to approval of any encroachment permit.
- Although not officially designated, SR 158 is eligible for State Scenic Highway status. Project layout and design should take this into consideration
- Collection of Fair Share Mitigation Fees could be considered for impacts to wetland areas, habitat fragmentation, transit services, etc.
- Please note the inconsistency between Exhibit D and Exhibit B regarding an access point to SR 158, easterly of the North Shore Drive junction.

Please continue to interact with us as environmental studies progress on this proposed project. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at (760) 872-0785. We value a cooperative working relationship in matters concerning the community of June Lake.

Sincerely,

GAYLE J. ROSANDER IGR/CEOA Coordinator

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Enclosure

Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse
 Jerry Gabriel, California Department of Transportation
 Ralph Cones, California Department of Transportation

## Enclosure A

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